



**The American Waterways Operators**



**WATERWAYS  
COUNCIL, INC.**

September 16, 2013

Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
& Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Nick Rahall  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation  
& Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall:

We write to thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, and to express our support for favorable action by your committee and the U.S. House of Representatives to pass this important legislation.

This bipartisan legislation is vitally needed for the economic well-being of our nation. We have waited six long years for the opportunity to address reforms necessary to achieve modernization of our inland waterways transportation system. Our organizations have recommended the inclusion in WRRDA of the bill H.R. 1149, Waterways Are Vital to our Economy, Energy, Efficiency and the Environment. We appreciate your adoption in H.R. 3080 of some of these recommendations and look forward to working with you throughout the legislative process to further achieve the goals of WAVE 4.

Critical to the modernization effort for inland waterways will be favorable action by the Ways and Means Committee to deliver the WAVE 4-recommended diesel fuel user fee increase necessary to construct the lock improvement projects authorized by your Committee. We encourage your Committee's support for that outcome.

Thank you again for your leadership in moving this important legislation forward and for your support for the inland waterways infrastructure that is so important to our nation's economy, environment, and quality of life.

Best wishes,

Thomas A. Allegretti  
American Waterways Operators

Michael Toohey  
Waterways Council Inc.

cc: Honorable Bob Gibbs  
Honorable Tim Bishop